

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A PLEISTOCENE PORPOISE (*TURSIOPS* SP.) FROM
MARYLAND.

BY S. F. BLAKE.

On 3 July 1938 Mr. F. Stearns MacNeil and I discovered the remains of a porpoise in the lowest bed (Bed 1 of Mansfield)¹ of the Talbot formation of the Pleistocene at Wailes Bluff, St. Marys Co., Maryland. The material collected consisted of 1 middle and 2 anterior ribs and 9 vertebrae, approximately the 3d, 5th, and 11th dorsal, the 6th, 8th, 12th, and 13th lumbar, and the 1st and 2d caudal. All the bones were close together in the bank, except 2 vertebrae found on the beach close by, and obviously belong to a single individual. Mr. Gerrit S. Miller and Dr. Remington Kellogg have identified the specimen as *Tursiops* sp., near *T. truncatus* (Montague), but probably not identical with that species. The bones have been given to the United States National Museum (no. 15727, Div. Vert. Paleont.). A single anterior lumbar vertebra, presumably from the same individual, which I collected in October 1938 on the beach at essentially the same locality is in my own collection.

The remains of fossil porpoises of several other genera are common in the Miocene of Maryland, but no specimen has previously been found in the Pleistocene deposits of the State. In fact, the only Pleistocene porpoises (*Delphinidae*) recorded by Hay² from North America east of the Mississippi River are *Delphinapterus leucas* Pall. from Canada, *D. vermontanus* (Thompson) from Vermont and Canada, *Monodon monoceras* L. from Canada, and *Globicephala baereckeii* (Sellards) from Florida, the last attributed to the Pliocene or Pleistocene.

¹ W. C. Mansfield, Notes on Pleistocene faunas from Maryland and Virginia and Pliocene and Pleistocene faunas from North Carolina, U. S. Geol. Surv. Prof. Paper 150 : 130. 1928.

² Second Bibl. & Cat. Foss. Vert. East. N. Amer. (Carn. Inst. Publ. 390) 2 : 586-595. 1930.